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ABSTRACT

Certificates are awarded to adult candidates who satisfy the examiners that their standard of ability in everyday English is adequate for them to express themselves in writing and to take an active part in conversations about everyday topics. The examination, which makes use of the techniques of objective testing, is set by a central Examining Body and conducted under identical conditions in each of the participating countries (West Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France, Belgium, and Great Britain) in accordance with the principles agreed on by the Adult Education Associations of Austria, Germany, and Switzerland. The following grades are given: very good, good, fairly good, satisfactory, poor, and unsatisfactory. Certificates are only awarded if the grade in both the written and oral examinations is at least satisfactory. (Author/DB)

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CERTIFICATES IN ADULT EDUCATION

Since 1968 the West German Volkshochschul-Verband (Adult Education Centres Association) has been developing and administering tests for adults in modern languages, science and technical fields. This work has been acknowledged as a breakthrough in German teaching practice and as a model for European adult education.

Why should testing, which in many countries is now accepted as an every-day aspect of teaching practice at all levels, arouse so much attention?

Since the end of the sixties the contradiction between the aims and the practice of conventional forms of assessment has been increasingly criticised. The dissatisfaction with school-leaving and matriculation examinations, dependent largely on the subjective evaluation of the teacher/examiner, was particularly great in adult education. Adult students, dependent on taking these examinations in the "second chance" system, were compelled to study

- a subject matter conceived for adolescents, often irrelevant to the adult situation.
- for an examination form often in contradiction to their needs (ie testing passive rather active skills)
- without the possibility of gauging their own performance before taking the examination.
- for a norm-orientated rather than learning-objective-orientated examination.

To remedy this situation (which, apart from the first point, is equally applicable to the school situation) the Volkshochschul-Verband was commissioned by its members in 1968 to develop Certificate examinations based on objective testing methods.

The initial three year experimental project is financed and supported by the Federal Ministry of Education and Science.

The choice of modern languages and science for the experimental project was based

- on the demand for long-term courses and final achievement tests (an important motivational factor) within the Volkshochschulen (Adult Education Centres);
- on the absence of adequate alternative examinations at this level in these fields;
- on a sufficient level of didactical reflexion within the field in question to allow the establishing of valid, long-term teaching goals;
- on the educational and social relevance of certifying skills in these fields.

Certificate examinations are already being administered in English, French, Spanish, German as a Foreign Language, Russian, Mathematics and Electrical Engineering.

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Nearly ten thousand candidates have taken the Certificate examinations over the last few years, with a success rate of app. 93%. Significantly, the achievement and placement tests developed for the Certificate examinations and courses are being used increasingly in German high schools and universities. The Certificates are recognised variously by the majority of federal state Education Authorities as equivalent to the school leaving or matriculation examinations. The enthusiasm of industry is such that in many large international firms the internal language teaching schemes are geared to the Certificates, which thus achieve the staus of (semi-) professional qualifications.

Certificates for Business English, Italian, Statistics, Electronics, Chemistry and Information Theory are in various stages of development.

The success of the experimental project brings the possibilty of a unit/credit matriculation or even degree system for adult education as conceived by the Volkshochschul-Verband, notably by Schulenberg nearer. Such a system would ensure an individually suited course of study for each participant.

The development and application of the certificates is not restricted to West Germany. The committees charged with establishing the educational objectives and constructing the test batteries are composed of international experts in teaching, research, curriculum research and test construction. The examinations are administered simultaneously in West Germany, Austria and Switzerland, increasingly in France, Belgium and Great Britain. (The scoring is carried out centrally)

Among the many examples of cooperation with national and international institutions, including the Council of Europe, one is particularly interesting: the cocperation of the Goethe Institut (German Institute) on the Certificate "German as a Foreign Language" helps to ensure that this will be not only a european but, in the long-run, a world-wide qualification.

For more information on any aspect of the Certificate project, please contact the

Pädagogische Arbeitsstelle des DVV
6 Frankfurt/Main
Holzhausenstr. 21
West Germany

VOLKSHOCHSCHUL-ZERTIFIKAT FÜR ENGLISCH

~~Frau~~ / Fräulein / ~~Herr~~ Hannelore Huber

geboren am 8.3.1950 in Darmstadt

hat vor dem Prüfungsausschuß des

Hessischen Volkshochschulverband e.V.

die Fremdsprachenprüfung in

ENGLISCH

abgelegt.

Die Einzelleistungen waren

schriftlich: gut

mündlich: sehrgut

Aufgrund der Gesamtbewertung der Leistungen

gilt die Prüfung als mit gut bestanden.

(Siegel)

Landesprüfungsbeauftragter — Leiter der Volkshochschule

In der Prüfung wurden Kenntnisse in der englischen Sprache nachgewiesen, die es erlauben, Gedanken schriftlich auszudrücken sowie ein Gespräch über Situationen des täglichen Lebens zu verstehen und sich daran zu beteiligen.

Auf Grund vertraglicher Vereinbarungen zwischen den Volkshochschul-Verbänden in Deutschland, Österreich und der Schweiz wird die Prüfung auf der Basis zentraler Aufgabenstellung nach objektiven Bewertungsmaßstäben in den beteiligten Ländern einheitlich durchgeführt.

Die Notenskala enthält die Prädikate sehr gut – gut – befriedigend – ausreichend – mangelhaft – ungenügend. Bei einer mangelhaften oder ungenügenden Leistung wird kein Zertifikat ausgestellt.

Certificates are awarded to candidates who satisfy the examiners that their standard of ability in everyday English is adequate for them to express themselves in writing and to take an active part in conversations about everyday topics.

The examination, which makes use of the techniques of objective testing, is set by a central Examining Body and conducted under identical conditions in each of the participating countries in accordance with the principles agreed on by the Adult Education Associations of Austria, Germany and Switzerland.

The following grades are given: very good – good – fairly good – satisfactory – poor – unsatisfactory. Certificates are only awarded if the grade in both the written and oral examinations is at least satisfactory.

Frankfurt — 22.4.1972

Ort — Datum

VOLKSHOCHSCHUL-ZERTIFIKAT FÜR MATHEMATIK (Grundwissen)

~~Frau~~ / Herr Hans Müller

geboren am 16.9.1936 in Kassel

hat vor dem Prüfungsausschuß des

Hessischen Volkshochschulverbandes e.V.

die Zertifikatsprüfung in

MATHEMATIK (Grundwissen)

mit der Note gut abgelegt.

Aufgrund der für das Zertifikat geltenden Prüfungsordnung

gilt die Prüfung damit als bestanden.

(Siegel)

In der Prüfung wurden Grundkenntnisse in folgenden mathematischen Bereichen nachgewiesen:

- Mengen und Mengenoperationen
- Relation, Funktion
- Algebraische Strukturen
- Lineare und quadratische Gleichungen
- Systeme linearer Gleichungen und Ungleichungen
- Aufbau des Zahlensystems
- Potenzen, Wurzeln und Logarithmen
- Geometrische Figuren und Lehrsatz des Pythagoras

Aufgrund vertraglicher Vereinbarungen zwischen den Volkshochschul-Verbänden in der BRD, Österreich und der Schweiz wird die Prüfung auf der Basis zentraler Aufgabenstellung nach objektiven Bewertungsmaßstäben in den beteiligten Ländern einheitlich durchgeführt.

Die Notenskala enthält die Prädikate sehr gut – gut – befriedigend – ausreichend. Bei einer mangelhaften oder ungenügenden Leistung wird kein Zertifikat ausgestellt.

Frankfurt — 5.6.1972

Test 2

Suggested time – 5 minutes

On the answer sheet underline the correct letter.

Example

Aren't you going to send the letter _____ air mail?

a. across
b. by
c. over
d. with

11 She was trembling _____ cold when she came in.

a. by
b. for
c. through
d. with

12 The doctor told him to stop smoking, but he went _____ all the same.

a. forward
b. further
c. on
d. through

13 He's an expert _____ his field.

a. about
b. at
c. in
d. with

14 She'll be home on Monday _____ the latest.

a. at
b. for
c. on
d. to

15 _____ my opinion, prices will rise next year.

a. After
b. At
c. By
d. In

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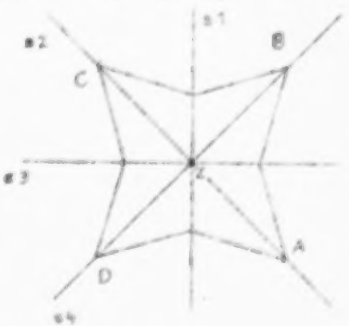
Betrachten Sie die Menge

$$M = \{D_0, D_{90}, D_{180}, D_{270}, S_1, S_2, S_3, S_4\}$$

von Deckabbildungen des vierstrahligen Sterns.

Dabei bedeuten $D_0, D_{90}, \ldots$ die Drehungen um z mit den Winkeln $0°, 90°, \ldots$; entsprechend bedeuten $S_1, S_2, \ldots$ die Spiegelungen an den Achsen $s_1, s_2, \ldots$.



M ist eine Gruppe bezüglich der Verknüpfung $*$ ($*$ bedeutet Nacheinanderausführung zweier Abbildungen).

Welches ist das Ergebnis der Verknüpfung $S_1 * S_3$?

1. D_0 ☐
2. D_{90} ☐
3. D_{180} ☐
4. D_{270} ☐
5. S_1 ☐
6. S_2 ☐
7. S_3 ☐
8. S_4 ☐

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